

FIR-317/09134-74

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DCI FEBRUARY 1971

SUBJECT SIGHTINGS AND REPORTED CASUALTIES OF U.S. PRISONERS IN
BIEN HOA AND BINH DUNG PROVINCES, SOUTH VIETNAM

ACO

SOURCE

REDERSON
PUS
WILLIAMS

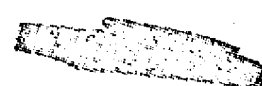
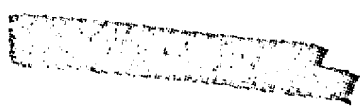
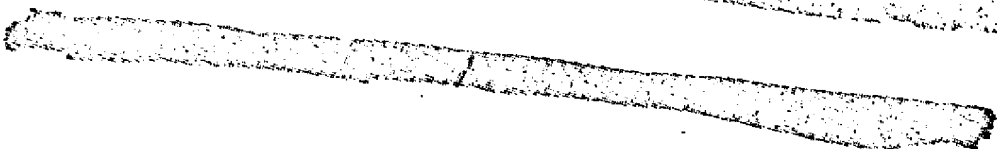
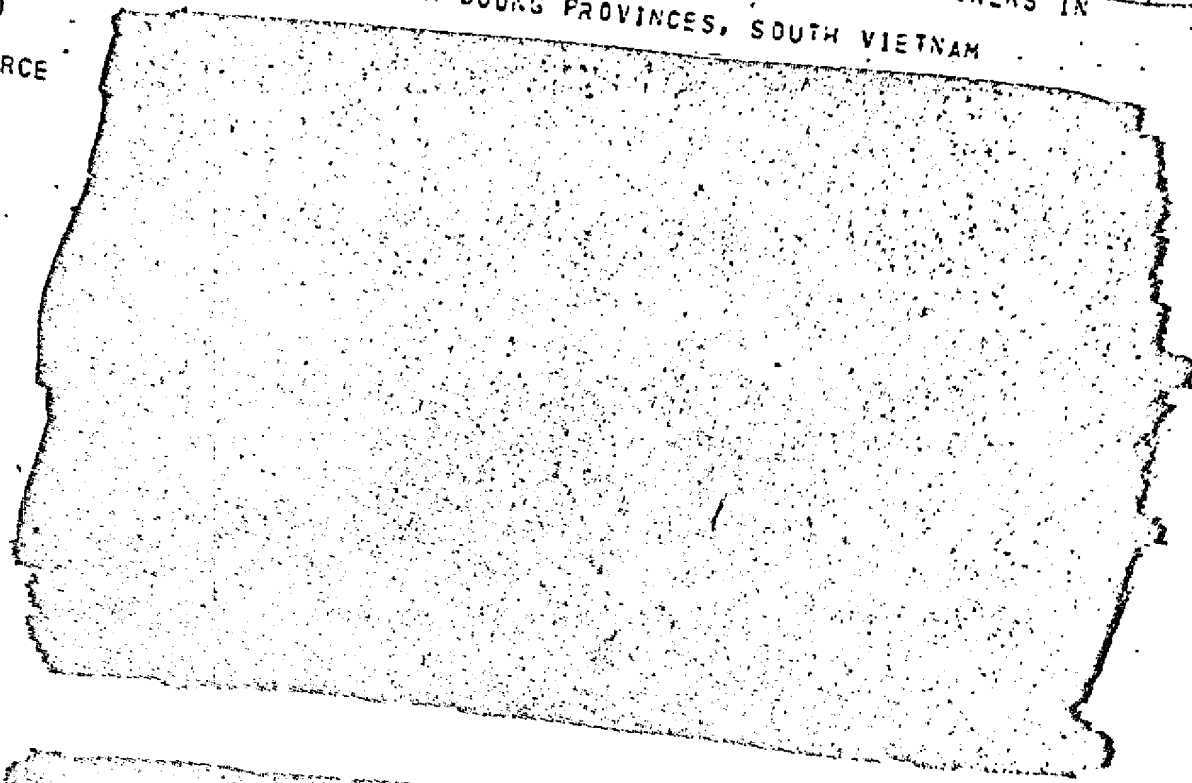
APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Date 24 AUG 1978

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Enclosure

#4

[REDACTED]

1. AT ABOUT 0630 HOURS ONE DAY IN FEBRUARY 1971, TWO U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR (POW'S) WERE SHAVING AT ABOUT XT925325 IN THE AREA OF XOM XINH, TAN LYEN DISTRICT, BIEN HOA PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM, UNDER THE GUARD OF FOUR MEMBERS OF THE 1ST BATTALION, VIET CONG (VC) DONG NAI REGIMENT. THE GUARDS SAID THAT THE 1ST BATTALION HAD CAPTURED THE TWO POW'S IN AN UNIDENTIFIED AREA OF CHAU THANH DISTRICT, BINH DUCNG PROVINCE, WHEN THEY WERE DRIVING IN A JEEP WITH ANOTHER UNIDENTIFIED AMERICAN. THE GUARDS SAID THAT THE LAST-MENTIONED AMERICAN WAS WOUNDED IN ONE LEG AT THE TIME OF CAPTURE AND LATER COMMITTED SUICIDE. THE GUARDS ALSO SAID THAT THE TWO POW'S WERE CORPORALS WHO COULD SPEAK A LITTLE VIETNAMESE. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE BURIAL SITE OF THE AMERICAN WHO DIED.)

2. AS OF APRIL 1971, TWO U.S. POW'S WHO HAD BEEN KEPT AT THE C-24TH DETENTION CAMP HAD ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE. ONE WAS SHOT TO DEATH AND THE OTHER FLED INTO THE WOODS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] BELIEVED THAT THESE WERE THE SAME POW'S HE HAD SEEN PREVIOUSLY

[REDACTED]

BECAUSE ONLY TWO U.S. POWS WERE CAPTURED BY THE THU BIEN REGIONAL UNIT IN 1970-71.) COMMENT: UPON THE DISBANDMENT OF VC E-5 IN EARLY 1971, VC THU BIEN SUBREGION WAS ESTABLISHED. IT BECAME VC BIEN HOA AND BINH DUONG PROVINCES IN EARLY 1973.)

3. THE TWO POWS WERE CAUCASIAN. ONE WAS ABOUT 20 YEARS OLD. HE WAS ABOUT 1.65 METERS TALL, WEIGHED ABOUT 56 KILOGRAMS, HAD A SMALL BUILD, WAVY BLOND HAIR, A STRAIGHT NOSE AND A RATHER SQUARE JAW. THE OTHER WAS ALSO ABOUT 20 YEARS OLD, ABOUT 1.65 METERS TALL, WEIGHED ABOUT 54 KILOGRAMS AND HAD A RUDDY SKIN, WAVY AUBURN HAIR, BROWN EYES, A CROOKED NOSE AND A POINTED CHIN. COMMENT: REVIEWED VOLUMES I AND II OF "PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA" AND IDENTIFIED THE PHOTO OF WALTER W. ECKES, E043, 03, MC, 650510, EE, A-369, VOL. I, AS BEARING SOME RESEMBLANCE TO THE FIRST POW DESCRIBED. HOWEVER, THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE PHOTOGRAPH SEEMED TO HAVE A SHORTER FACE, THICKER LIPS AND TO BE A LITTLE OLDER THAN THE ONE OBSERVED.)

4. COMMENT: JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC) EVALUATES THIS REPORT AS FOLLOWS: "THIS REPORT PROBABLY CORRELATES TO THE INCIDENT INVOLVING SFC JOE E. PEDERSON, SP4 JAMES M. ROYD, AND PFC ROBERT P. PHILLIPS (JCRC

ACCNO 1842, 1843 AND 1844; REFNO 1639-2-01-21-23, RESPECTIVELY).
 THE ONLY GROUND INCIDENT RECORDED IN THE JCRC DATA BASE FOR THE
 CHAU THANH DISTRICT, BINH DUONG PROVINCE, THAT INVOLVED THREE
 U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IN A VEHICLE OCCURRED ON 23 JUNE 1970 AT
 XT801340. THIS INCIDENT INVOLVED THE THREE INDIVIDUALS LISTED ABOVE.
 SFC PEDERSON IS CARRIED IN A MISSING STATUS. THE OTHER TWO ARE
 CARRIED AS CAPTURED.")

5. [REDACTED] DISSEM: DEFENSE ATTACHE FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE IN
 SAIGON: SENT TO CINCPAC (FOR CINCPAC AND POLAD ONLY) USSAG AND
 VIENTIANE (FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE ONLY).